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Police, witnesses conflict in brutality case

By Gloria Dulon Wilson
Staff Writer

An African American male was taken to the emergency room of Passaic Hospital recently, after having swallowed crack cocaine in an effort to conceal the evidence. That's the story the police tell.

However, several witnesses tell a totally different story. They say Darrell Brooks was brutally beaten into a coma by



Sgt. Delaney Davis

Photo by Herb Green

the police for resisting arrest. Mr. Brooks, according to witnesses, who wished to remain anonymous, was an innocent bystander who happened to have been near the scene at the time of the bust. When he tried to leave, a white policeman accosted him, threw him down and stomped and kicked him.

More than 25 witnesses attest to the fact that the beating was both unprovoked and unnecessary. Sgt. Delaney Davis, president of Black Cops Against Police Brutality, in a recent interview, stated the police officer in question, who has been given desk duty pending an investigation, has a record of violence and excessive force.

According to Davis, "They claimed he swallowed the drugs, which led to the coma. This is possible, what is not possible is the swelling around the head. A swollen head and face suggest trauma. 100 people have marched on the City Council in Passaic to bring the brutality to their attention. We also have 25 witnesses who have had run-ins with the same officer."

Black Cops Against Brutality want to ensure the ensuing trial results in justice for the family, and pledge to remain vigilant in following the case.

"We are stretched all over the place," asserted Davis. "In Trenton, D.C., wherever there is injustice — and believe me it's on the rise. The black police force in Passaic has dwindled considerably over the past few years. It has gone from 37% black to 6%."

"There has been no recruitment or retention policy. The white black female police officer, Carolyn Alford, left because she was accosted by a white policeman, pushed up against a wall and groped. We encouraged her to sue the force. She did, and he was convicted on a lesser charge. She won \$100,000, but left the force never to return."

Davis states 500 people attended the recent press conference, but stated that if just ice is not done in Brooks' case, "we will double that number. We plan to show them what Black history is all about," he asserted. "I have no problem fighting white people for the rights of black people. The problem I have is all the negroes who want to jump in and protect the whites. It's not us, but we have truly forgotten our history. I intend to be a constant reminder of why and how we are here."

Davis states the Black Cops Against Police Brutality have been a force in Passaic since 1994, and have no plans of going away. Mainline, Brooks remains in a coma in serious but stable condition.

Wall St. Project spurs black capital gain

Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH brings together minority entrepreneurs and consumers with corporate America



U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. and Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.

Photo by Chris Sykes

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Thirty some odd years after the Civil Rights movement made unprecedented gains for blacks and other minorities — historically denied their Constitutional rights and guarantees other groups have enjoyed, the questions of how far we have come and what else — if anything — is left to do have arisen.

Currently, a debate is raging about whether or not the idea of Affirmative Action and the programs and initiatives it spawned are still valid or even needed at this point in American history. The white majority is asking if indeed enough has been done already? Hasn't the country as a

whole done enough to make reparations for past injustices and transgressions? Hasn't the playing field been leveled enough and if not, what else can be done or even needs to be done on behalf of blacks and other minorities?

For the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the answer to those questions is crystal clear: the last great frontier of the Civil Rights Movement is the economic empowerment of blacks and other minorities. He and many others like him feel that the minds, bodies, and spirits of Blacks have been freed and now in the great American capitalist tradition — it is time to liberate our wallets.

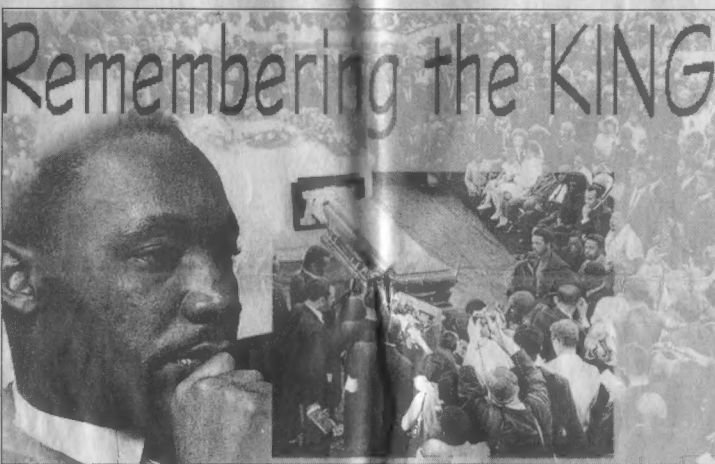
In pursuit of that end, three years ago Jackson initiated the

Rainbow/PUSH Wall Street Project to get corporate America together with minority entrepreneurs and consumers. On Jan. 12, he got together with those same friends, supporters and associates to mark the third anniversary of their collective effort, with three days of lectures, seminars, discussion, and networking.

"Our mission is simple: to expand access to capital to under-served communities with underutilized and untapped capital," Jackson said. "We must level and expand the economic playing field for all Americans."

Jackson said the project has accomplished a lot over the last three years. He said it has expanded the marketplace of

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'Where Do We Go From Here?'

By Glida Rogers
Staff Writer

PISCATAWAY — With the backdrop of Rutgers Athletic Center as his cathedral, Bishop Donald Hilliard could not have preached a better sermon than the one he preached this past Sunday, as the keynote speaker of The Millennium Commemorative Celebration in Honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"We're not challenged to sing 'Lift Every Voice,' 'We Shall Overcome,' or 'I Have a Dream,' but to move forward," said Bishop Hilliard in addressing the predominantly black audience.

He reminded all those in attendance of the work still to be done. And judging by the robust black crowd and smattering of other nationalities . . . there's still much work to be done when it comes to bridging the gap of racial divide.

The dais, representative of different cultures and clerics of different religious denominations, on this day, stood as the paradigm of what Dr. King's legacy has come to represent.

However, the nation, to its own chagrin, has been overt and fraudulent in adopting this model. And, yes, again on the 71st birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King the same old question still is raised, "Where Do We Go From Here?" — the theme of this year's celebration.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission in partnership with First

Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset; The Cathedral Second Baptist Church, Perth Amboy; St. James A.M.E. Church, Newark; St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, Orange and their respective pastors Rev. DeForest Soares, Jr., Bishop Hilliard, Rev. James Watley, and Rev. Reginald Jackson.



Coretta Scott King, pictured here in 1964 with Rev. Billy Graham at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s grave, honored her husband by attending ceremonies held at the Center for Nonviolent Social Change Jan. 18 in Atlanta.

hosted a moving tribute to a man who dreamed of a better world for all mankind.

On Monday, Secretary of State Soares delivered the keynote address at the King Center's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service in Atlanta, Georgia. The Center's Commemorative Service is the spiritual hallmark of the

National King Holiday observance. The theme of this year's service was: "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!"

"We are truly many faces but one family," said Rev. Christine Whitman, who wore a kente cloth design jacket. "How many of us walk away understanding the real chal-

lenge that he (Dr. King) put before us?"

In recognizing those who have lived up to the challenge, the governor presented Assemblyman Francis Blew, Dr. Carlos Hernandez, president of New Jersey City University, Commissioner of Community Affairs for the state, Jane Kenny, Shahid Mahmood, member-at-large of the Governor's

Ethnic Advisory Council; and President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Herbert Tate, with the "Many Faces-One Family Award."

The late Dr. Rev. S. Howard Woodson was also honored, with his wife graciously accepting and sharing words about her husband with the audience. Serving in the State Assembly from 1964-1976, Rev. Woodson was the first African American to serve as Assembly Speaker.

Indeed, the soul-stirring oration by many of the speakers (Msgr. William Lind, founder of New Community Corporation, Rabbi Randall Mark, president New Jersey Region of Rabbinical Assembly; Shahid Farooqui, M.D., American Islamic Academy, and Habibullah Saleem, a Newark poet dedicated a poem to Dr. King) was an appropriate tribute to Dr. King.

While The Millennium Unity Mass Choir made the event a festive occasion and spiritually uplifting, with joyful songs of praise.

But the obvious message of the day boomed down to this: Blacks and whites, alike, as brothers and sisters — breaking bread together and living in harmony.

In making this point, Bishop Hilliard challenged all black folks in attendance to invite their white brethren and for whites to invite their black brethren over for lunch or dinner. Clearly, a symbolic gesture proposed by the bishop — with a lot of meaning.

Staggering rise in black women incarcerated

NNPA — An increased number of African American and other women of color celebrated the holidays behind bars. Most of them are casualties of the drug war.

The Sentencing Project, Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, group seeking prison alternatives, said in a report it released last year that the number of women imprisoned since 1980 has nearly doubled the male rate.

"There are now nearly seven times as many women in state and federal prisons as in 1980, an increase from 12,300 in 1980 to 82,800 by 1997, for a rise of 573 percent," it stated in "Gender and Justice: Women, Drugs and Sentencing Policy."

Women of color are the majority of the women who get jail time for drug offenses, according to the report, which examined female incarceration in Minnesota, New York and California as well as nationally from 1980 to 1996.

It stated 91 percent of the increase of the number of women jailed in New York were arrested for drug offenses, and the equal percentage of those jailed were Black and Latino.

"It's a very stark picture," said Marc Mauer, the project's assistant director and co-author of the report "Collateral Damage." He said two-thirds of the incarcerated women have children under 18 — children who are dealing with the shame and problems of a family fractured by the American justice system.

Increased jailing of black women "further disrupts family ties and community ties in the black community," said Mauer, who argued that the tough-on-crime policies create a situation where "prison becomes more common than college" for many Black Americans.

Families, particularly children, suffer "collateral damage" when mother incarcerated, said Catherine Powell, executive director of the Human Rights Institute of Columbia University's Law School. A generation of young people in prison, she added, as badly impacting black families back home.

Powell said, "the sacred cow" of the nation's tough-on-crime policies must be slaughtered because "the face of prison is becoming increasingly young, female and black and Latino."

Gus Smith added, she expects "thousands to millions" of young black people will be imprisoned if the war on drugs continues to be a war on black youth.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEWARK - A municipal council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chamber. Call (973) 733-9844 for information.

NEWARK - The largest exhibition of both secular and ritual Tibetan art and cultural materials is on display at the Newark Museum through Jan. 20. For more information, call (973) 596-6550.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

NEWARK - Sherman Community Center presents a Tiny Tot basketball league for children ages 5-8 on January 20th, January 25th and January 27th. For more information, contact Daisy Hargraves at (973) 242-5950, Abdussalam Logan at (973) 242-5951 or Chi-Que Jones at (973) 371-2585.

NEWARK - A visual tour will be held at the New Jersey Historical Society from 12-15 through 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch, bring a friend. For more information, call (973) 596-8500.

FORT WASHINGTON, PA - The Greater Philadelphia Sport, Travel and Outdoor Show returns with exhibits and demonstrations at the Fort Washington Expo Center through Jan. 23. Call (610) 431-4315 for more information.

JERSEY CITY - Open auditions for Performing Arts will be held at Grace Van Vorst Church through January 21. For more information, call (201) 659-2211, ext. 6.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

EDISON - The 33rd Annual N.J. Trailer and Camping Show takes place at the NJ Convention and Expo Center through Jan. 23. Call (908) 362-5006 for information.

NEWARK - An Enterprise Community Board Meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. in City Hall, Room B-29. For more information, call (973) 733-4331.

NEWARK - A Central Planning Board Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in City Hall Council Chamber. For more information, call (973) 733-6254.

ATLANTIC CITY - The Sail Expo is the largest indoor sailboat show on the east coast. The event includes boats, accessories and apparel. It will take place at the Atlantic City Convention Center through Jan. 23. Call 1-800-332-3976 for information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

IRVINGTON - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Irvington Town Hall from 4 to 7 p.m. to process Passports, Notary Public Oaths, ABC ID's, Veterans Licenses, and Filing of Physicians Licenses. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Montclair Municipal Bldg. from 7 to 9 p.m. to process Passports, Notary Public Oaths, ABC ID's, Veterans Licenses, and Filing of Physicians Licenses. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

TRENTON - A Laser Show, "Laser Symphony," will be held at the NJ State Museum Planetarium at 2 p.m. For more information, call (609) 777-1770.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

TRENTON - An art exhibit, "Myself, My Camera, My World," third annual exhibit of photographs by Trenton Teens and pre-teens will be held at the Trenton Public Library. Call (609) 392-7198 for more information.

TRENTON - Mercer County Community College presents the play "Jenny and the Jersey Devil" at the MCC Kelsey Theater. Call (609) 584-8444 for information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

JERSEY CITY - African folk tales will be told at the Jersey City Museum, 4th Fl. from 1 to 2 p.m. For more information, call (201) 547-4514.

NEWARK - The New Jersey Historical Society hosts an exhibit on dining in New Jersey from then and now at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (973) 596-8500.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

NEWARK - Sing in Praise of King will be held 3:00 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church. U.S. Representative Steve Floyd Flake is the keynote speaker. Casey Houston and the New Hope Youth Explosion are entertainment. This program is a free event. For more information, call (973) 733-8455.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

NEWARK - A Central Planning Board Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in City Hall. For more information, call (973) 733-6254.

MILLBURN - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Maplewood Town Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process Passports, Notary Public Oaths, ABC ID's, Veterans Licenses, and Filing of Physicians Licenses. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

NEWARK - A Rent Control board determination meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in City Hall, Room 114. For more information, call (973) 733-3675.

NEW YORK - Kids Night On Broadway offers each adult who purchases a full price ticket to Broadway show one free ticket for a child age 9-18. For more information, call The Broadway Line at 1-888-broadway, or (212) 302-4111.

BELLEVILLE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Belleville Public Library from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to process Passports, Notary Public Oaths, ABC ID's, Veterans Licenses, and Filing of Physicians Licenses. You must provide your own photos. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

ORANGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Orange City Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process Passports, Notary Public Oaths, ABC ID's, Veterans Licenses, and Filing of Physicians Licenses. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on Wills and Estate Planning at the New Jersey Law Center at 7 p.m. For more information, call (732) 249-5000.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

NEWARK - 1,000 Friends Education Policy Luncheon returns to the Newark Club with special guest speaker Justice Hugh Handberg 12 p.m. For more information, call (973) 621-6931.

NEWARK - A Board of Adjustment Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chamber. For more information, call (973) 733-6353.

NEWARK - A visual tour will be held at the New Jersey Historical Society from 12-15 through 1 p.m. featuring talks, presentations, demonstrations and gallery programs. For more information, call (973) 596-8500.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

NEWARK - A Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Room 301. For more information, call (973) 733-6445.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

NEW YORK - "Perfect Documents" will display 50 of the photographs from Walker Evans' portfolio along with several related sculptures. The exhibition is sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc. for more information, call (212) 535-7710.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

ATLANTIC CITY - Kids Fair 2000, a triple show just for kids will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Atlantic City Convention Center. For more information, call (800) 262-7395.

Teaming for students is a winning strategy at NJCU



David C. Hespe, left, commissioner of education for the state, discusses conference goals with, from left, professors Jay Doolan, Maryanne Grumelli and Aaron Graham, Jill Lewis, and Steve Heller and Carlos Hernandez. NJCU president who delivered opening remarks and introduced the keynote speaker at the recent "Teaming Up For N.J. Students" conference.

Professor Lani Guinier discusses her new book at college lecture event



Attorney Lani Guinier (right), the first black woman to hold a tenured position at Harvard University, discusses her book, "Lift Every Voice: Turning 'With' from left, professors Audrey Fisch, Arlene Graham, and John Nevins. Guinier, a professor of law, was recently the featured speaker in New Jersey City University's Lecture Series.

A Soiree to remember!



Members of The New York Based "Seventh Principle Performance Company" dance during the Holiday Soiree '99, an evening of entertainment and networking sponsored by the Black Public relations society of Greater New York at the UFA Gallery in Chelsea.



Black Entertainment Television Personality Patrick Riley, from left, provides the vocal entertainment for, from left, Melvin E. Taylor, Mike Mills and Miriam Reed at the Black Public Relations Society of Greater New York '99 Soiree event that took place recently.

National Research Science Center appoints Banister to advisory board



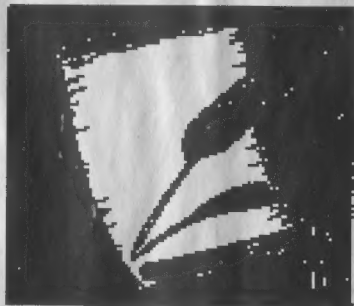
Gaurdie E. Banister, president of Shell Services International, Inc., has been appointed for a three-year term to the Advisory Board of the National Science Resources Center in Washington, D.C.

The NSRC, operated jointly by two of the nation's most prestigious organizations - the National Academy of Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution - is dedicated to the reform of science teaching in schools across the country.

NSRC programs place special emphasis on the formation of educational partnerships with business and industry, and stress the involvement and collaboration of the education and scientific communities. "We are gratified and fortunate to have an individual with Gaurdie's extensive background join our Advisory Board," said Douglas Lapp, executive director of NSRC.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

FENCE MURAL TOUCHES OFF CONTROVERSY IN SMALL TOWN

SPRINGVILLE, Ala. (AP) — Suzanne Lambert has gotten dozens of compliments for painting a colorful outdoor mural that shows black and white children dancing together.

But Lambert also has heard complaints. Not everyone in this overwhelmingly white town of 2,000 people likes the racial integrated scene.

"One man pulled over and yelled, 'Don't you know how to paint white children?'" Lambert said. "I completely ignored him."

Another man, according to the artist, said he was going to come back at night and paint the black children white.

"It just makes me so mad," Lambert, 52, said recently as she put the final touches on the mural, which covers a white picket fence. "I hate to think there are people in this town who would think that way."

City zoning director John Ray said he heard some concerns about whether the mural was acceptable for Springville's historic Main Street district, but none seemed racially motivated.

"I can't even imagine in this day and age someone saying that," Ray said. "We're going to take statements from everyone involved and see if we can prosecute. That won't be tolerated."

Mayor Charles Griffin asked police to make extra patrols near the mural after learning of the comments. "It was probably people who passed through town and don't even live here," he said.

Chris DuPont, who owns the fence, said he asked Mrs. Lambert to paint a mural so it would be more interesting to passersby.

MAYOR ACCUSED OF INSULTING BLACKS, JEWS

FRANKLIN, Va. (AP) — A mayor who denied making a remark that insulted blacks, as reported in The Washington Post, now is being criticized for disparaging the article's author with a remark about his religion.

Mayor James P. Council III, who is white, was quoted in the newspaper Dec. 25 as saying, "It's not that we don't like to live next to the blacks, it's just that people don't like to see the junk in the yards."

Council denied making the comment. But he admitted saying of the reporter, in a story published Tuesday by The Richmond Times-Dispatch: "He's Jewish. He doesn't care about Christmas, and he ruined a lot of people's Christmases in Franklin."

The Anti-Defamation League wrote to Council to complain about the "bizarrely insensitive and offensive" comment in the Richmond newspaper. Council apologized, while continuing to disavow the earlier remark.

In an editorial Wednesday, The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk called on Council to resign. "As if the city of Franklin didn't have problems enough, now it is saddled with a bigoted mayor who can't keep his foot out of his mouth," the editorial said.

Council and Post reporter Steven Ginsberg did not return telephone calls seeking comment Wednesday. The Post stood by its story.

"The mayor, by the ugly bigotry of his second remark, only lends credence to the reporting of the first," the newspaper said in an editorial Wednesday.

Some residents defended the mayor after the Post story. Letters to The Tidewater News in Franklin praised Council's generosity and compassion after floods in September devastated 180 downtown businesses and 100 homes.

Council, whose insurance office was flooded, drummed up financial aid and recruited volunteers to help flooded-out residents and business owners in the city of 8,500.

In a statement Tuesday, Council apologized "to all who have may have been offended" by his comment about Ginsberg. He said the remark was made "out of frustration from the browbeating the press was giving me and Franklin as a result of Ginsberg's article."

Archdiocese withdraw Lewis' King ceremony because of abortion views

ATLANTA (AP) — The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta withdrew an invitation for Rep. John Lewis to speak in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday because Lewis supports abortion rights.

Lewis, D-Ga., had been invited by the archdiocese's Office of Black Catholics, which plans a King observance each year.

According to church spokesman Monsignor Peter Dora said Archbishop John Donoghue decided to rescind the invitation just before Christmas, about five months

after Lewis was invited.

"The invitation was a regrettable mistake on our part, and we offer apologies to Congressman Lewis for any inconvenience this may have caused to his schedule," Dora said.

Lewis, a close friend of King, said he was "deeply saddened" that the invitation was withdrawn.

Lewis, a Baptist and seminary graduate whose wife's father and sister are Catholic, often speaks at Catholic schools and churches across the country. He has been honored by the

church in the past for his leadership during the civil rights movement.

Lewis said he had planned to talk about King's legacy of compassion. And if abortion had come up, he said, he would have repeated his usual position: "It's between you and your God."

Dora said Lewis' name draws complaints from Catholics across north Georgia.

"We are totally opposed to abortion, and Congressman Lewis has made it abundantly clear that he is 100 percent pro-choice," he said.

Some black Catholics said they disagreed with the decision.

"The archbishop's view is a particularly narrow view," said Lyn Vaughn, a eucharistic minister and lector at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Atlanta before moving to Norfolk, Va., in September.

"Given that many Catholics are pro-choice, it misses the point and the spirit of Dr. King's life to uninvite him now."

Other Catholics said the church's anti-abortion stance should be its primary concern.



Bill Clinton with John Lewis.

Photo courtesy of The White House

Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater addresses NCNW luncheon



U.S. Secretary Rodney Slater poses with Shell Oil Company representatives and award winners.

Photo by Jim Wells

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rodney Slater, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, stressed the importance of creating and maintaining a worldwide network at the Global Linkages Luncheon during the National Council of Negro Women's recent national convention.

Slater, the luncheon's keynote speaker, commended the organization's outstanding community service and its positive impact on the lives of Black American women and their families.

Slater also acknowledged Shell Oil Company, the luncheon sponsor, for its long-time support of NCNW. For the past decade,

Shell has sponsored the NCNW's Excellence in Teaching Award program, which honors outstanding teachers of Black American children. Seventy-seven educators from across the nation have received this prestigious award.

Founded in 1935 by Mary McCloud Bethune, the legendary educator and human rights advocate, NCNW is the nation's broadest-based organization of African American women. Now under the leadership of Dr. Dorothy I. Height, chair and president emerita, and Dr. Jane Smith, president and CEO, it has an outreach of four million women through 38 national affiliate organizations.

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Feel the New in Newark

Call it what you want, but it feels like an uprising, there's something very good going on, you here me, and it's buzzing like a bee — Newark — NEWARK is soon to be the place to be. And watch out New Jerseyese!!! Oh, there are so many wonderful things in the air for the city. There's a vibrant movement, and for us new baby-boomers who came along at the latter part of the last one, a work to the younger generation: we can do this together and make it work! Get excited and if you're not, you just ought to be, at least you'd feel better. To all those in the trenches doing the good work, there for the people, organizing, you go, use the words as your state. And thanks for keeping the light on, always reminding us of who we are, from where we've come, and where it's we need to be. The Lincoln Park Coast Cultural Committee has a master plan for an effervescent, SoHo-ish arts district. The Newark Store is coming to town promoting and spotlighting the people and places that make up this Renaissance City. Newark property owners have organized a downtown Special Improvement District, along with community revitalization strategies, then throw in the new sports arena, all spelt vitality, if you ask me. Movement dictates progress and when there is a void in activity the only thing that can exist is lethargic, withdrawn apathy, rendering a stultified environment, and Newark has had it share of this. Like the first day of spring, a new revitalizing spirit is being felt in the community. It's galvanizing people and an abundance of synergy, and no matter how small your part is — together it's all good. A funny thing happened as I rambled through this piece. I remembered seeing Newbrk's — the R&B classic band — a long, long time ago right here in Newark — now those were the days, buzzing like a bee. Exciting!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

I forward this letter in protest and in outrage regarding the mistreatment of young Nathaniel Abraham, in the hands of the Michigan State Judicial System.

A legal conviction of a young child of color at the age 11 for second degree murder on questionable evidence is a gross miscarriage of justice. When we see young white youths at affluent communities killing their babies, killing an adult and gutting the body and tossing it in Central Park Lake, and the mas-

By Jim McGreevey

Of the many managerial difficulties with the Whitman Administration's implementation of the new auto emission testing system, the most troubling realization is that the entire debacle could have and should have been avoided.

The State of New Jersey has had years to prepare for the new, more stringent emission testing system. It is a well known fact that federal clean air standards and prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from withholding more than \$1 billion in transportation aid to the state.

Sensible and prudent policy ought to have dictated proper planning and thorough testing and trouble-shooting prior to the start of the testing. Most importantly, there should have been essential to hire a company with the professional experience and expertise needed to implement a testing program which will impact air quality for New Jersey families and over \$1 billion in aid.

Unfortunately, none of this occurred in New Jersey. That is one of the reasons I voted against the legislation establishing the specifications for this program, in committee and on the Senate floor when I served in the New Jersey State Legislature.

Ultimately, a Governor's responsibility is to design, vision and implement an overall plan to bring that vision to reality. Again and again, the Whitman Administration simply ignores the difficult process of governing and simply addresses serious challenges in a capricious and almost foolhardy manner. While New Jersey motorists will recover from five hour waits, residents deserve a more efficient, responsive Governor.

For the motorists and the Whitman Administration designed a radically exclusive set of requirements for a potential bidder. As a result, the \$400 million contract for the project was awarded to a sole bidder — Parsons Infrastructure and Technology, Pasadena, California. The company had never run an operation of this magnitude and was being used by a Los Angeles transit agency for \$65 million in fraudulent over-

bidding. Adding to the questions surrounding Parsons' selection was the fact that the company had close ties to Governor Whitman and Republican fundraising activities in New Jersey.

Parsons contributed \$60,000 to various GOP campaign committees in 1997. Former Republican State Committee Chairman Frank B. Holman represented Parsons at the Department of Treasury's bidding conference for the project.

The company awarded a \$63 million engineering contract to a close associate of GOP Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco. Carl Golden, who served as Governor Whitman's press secretary during his first term as Governor, is the official spokesman for Parsons, which has given his company a lucrative public relations and advertising contract valued at \$15 million.

The results of the Whitman Administration's failure to implement the new testing system in a proper and competent manner became painfully apparent when the program started. Backups at inspections stations caused long lines and waiting times of

Again and again, the Whitman Administration simply ignores the difficult process of governing and simply addresses serious challenges in a capricious and almost foolhardy manner.

up to five hours — and this occurred in a week when volume at the stations was about half of the normal level. In addition, tires of several vehicles were damaged beyond repair by the new machinery.

The Governor's response — to impose minimal fines on Parsons and "threaten" the company with revocation of its contract, and to open inspection stations at four earlier locations than normal and consider other options to move cars through the lines more expeditiously — is much too little too late.

What occurred was the new poorly

designed system was implemented was precisely what should have been anticipated and addressed before the program started.

Instead, the incompetence of the Whitman Administration has resulted in another fiasco for New Jersey motorists and an embarrassment to our state while Parsons inspectors conduct "on-the-job" training with New Jersey motorists as their test subjects.

The problems with the emissions testing system could be a disturbing pattern of mismanagement for New Jersey drivers, which has developed and worsened during the Whitman Administration.

E-Pass is to be installed on the entire New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway by 1996, yet the Parkway only recently opened its first E-Pass toll plaza and none are currently available on the Turnpike as we approach 2000. Here, once again, a private company with close ties to the Governor was contracted for a nearly \$500 million job it could not competently handle. Meanwhile, drivers from surrounding states such as New York and Delaware have been using E-Pass for many months.

In addition, the Transportation Trust Fund has been bonded to such an extent that it is scheduled just to pay off debt it has incurred starting the next fiscal year. In fact, the Administration dawdles and refuses to identify a new independent revenue source to ensure that New Jersey can fund its rebuild. We have the fourth oldest infrastructure in the nation, yet we cannot find the resolve to ensure that our infrastructure is renovated and postured for the new millennium.

New Jersey deserves better from its leaders. Motorists are tired of paying the price when exorbitant contracts are doled out to contractors who perform no work. The jobs are based upon politics instead of competence. It's time to put state drivers first.

James E. McGreevey, the Mayor of Woodbridge Township, is a former member of the New Jersey state Legislature and was the Democratic Party's gubernatorial candidate in 1997.

Parents needs to teach children about Internet safety

By Tara Wall

How safe are our children when they are surfing the Internet? There is no denying the incredible educational advantages the Internet offers and how essential mastering it is to future success in the professional world, but there are also dangers waiting for the innocent users.

For the most part, the computerless Black Americans are the worst off of the digital divide. It is a great despair for these parents to impress the upon their children these dangers since they'll be leaving outside the home.

For example, the Internet search engine About.com has an excellent selection of links to websites highlighting Black American culture, education resources and self-help advice that is suitable for both adults and children.

At the side of the screen, however, is a "shopcenter," offering passage to an online casino, a place to buy a "sexy fragrance," and a "sexy snapper.com" are prizes of up to \$25,000 that will most likely add a child's e-mail address to an advertiser's mailing list.

Just two clicks from the shopcenter's "love, sex, movies" icon, one can find articles on sex and exercise machines so new and intriguing you can't mention them in polite company, and

"caring for the sexual self." Starters off with good intentions at this site, unintended children could end up learning a lot that they shouldn't.

In addition to inappropriate Internet content being within a child's reach, there's also the danger of who may be trying to reach out to them. The news is full of stories about online predators using online "chat rooms" to arrange real-life meetings with unsuspecting kids.

But you aren't alone in defenseless. There are several things parents can do to protect their children.

Software like NetNanny and SurfWatch and search engines like Yahoo!Kids! — www.yahoo!kids.com — and Super Snooper — www.super-snooper.com — are specifically designed to filter out inappropriate content or make it less likely for it to be found.

Groups like SafeKids.com have also helped parents to surf by SafeKids.com's "Kids Rules for Online Safety" includes very commonsense rules like "I will not give out personal information," "I will tell my parents

right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable" and "I will never agree to get together with someone I meet online without first checking with my parents."

Parents need to take a proactive role in their child's exploration on the Internet. Rules are fine, but they need to be educational and "I will never agree to get together with someone I meet online without first checking with my parents."

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UN commission calls for race conference

By De Courad W. Worrell

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland — through the Center for Human Rights — in 1993 established for three years the Special Representative on the Situation of Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations confirmed this mandate and assigned it to Mr. Maurice Ghehe-Ahlanizah of Benin. At its fifty-second session, the Commission, by resolution in 1996 expressed its full support and appreciation for the Special Representative's work and decided to extend his mandate for a period of three years.

Since the establishment of the Special Representative's Office, Ghehe-Ahlanizah has examined racism and racial discrimination in Australia, Austria, Canada, the United States, the Russian Federation, France, Israel, Indonesia, Italy, and many other countries.

In 1997, the Special Representative's Office observed "that racism and racial discrimination persist in various regions of the world both in their structural, economic and social form and in the form on xenophobia."

Theories of racial inequality are

raising their head while at the same time modern communication technologies, especially the Internet, are making it easier to disseminate racial hatred, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism," he said.

In this regard, the Special Representative made a number of recommendations — which have been approved by the General Assembly and the Commission.

These recommendations are to convene a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and to consider action at the international level — beginning studies, research and joint action immediately — over the use of the Internet as a vehicle for racist propaganda.

"When we discuss racism, we must be clear on this term that it is so much used by so many people. International Association Against Torture has been assisting in organizing these — group com-

Attorney Wareham and the December 12th Movement have suggested four areas that African people should focus on in preparation for the World Conference on Racism and establishing an agenda that reflects the condition of African people in America.

They are: passage of a United Nations resolution declaring the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade as a crime against humanity; repara-

tions for Africa and for Africans throughout the diaspora; a campaign, targeted at the United States Congressional Black Caucus focusing on the demand that the United States hold a national prep com-

States hold a national prep com for the World Conference on Racism; a campaign to ensure that the United States provide the funding to the South Africa indicated it would need for it to host the World Conference on Racism.

Against this backdrop, the National Black United Front / Chicago Chapter, is organizing a major community forum on the topic on the demand that the United States hold a national prep com.

We will be featuring Attorney Wareham and he will give us an overview of the United Nations World Conference on Racism.

We need to stay informed when it comes to cyberspace, so let's stay on top of it!

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEW YORK - Professional Women in Construction hosts breakfast forum, "Meet the Women Developers." Development of museums, landmarks, residential communities and nonprofit housing, including creative financing. At the Yacht Club, 8:30 a.m. (212) 687-0510.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

MT. HOLLY - NJIT hosts a seminar on government contracting for small business at the Burlington County College, 10 a.m. (609) 343-4845.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on planning a will or estate at the New Jersey Law Center, 7 p.m. (732) 349-5000.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

WASHINGTON - The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts its 63rd Congressional Dinner at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel through Feb. 4. Call (800) 956-7888 for information.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on estate and federal income tax at the New Jersey Law Center, 7 p.m. (732) 349-5000.

Profile your business' latest events in City News! Send all business calendar items to:

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United National Bank takes service to the streets with new bankmobile

NEWARK — At a time when many banks are attempting to discourage customers from using the teller window, United National Bank is utilizing state-of-the-art technology to bring the teller window closer to its customers.

UNB's new mobile branch made its maiden voyage earlier this month. The bank branch on wheels is the first of its kind in New Jersey. It will be making regularly scheduled visits to assisted living communities, nursing homes, corporate parks and elementary schools in more than a half-dozen counties throughout New Jersey soon.

"Technological advances have given us the ability to bring all the services associated with a traditional bank right to our customers' front door," said Thomas C. Gregor, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of United National Bank.

"This gives us the ability to stay close to our customers' needs while extending our reach far beyond what would be feasible with brick and mortar bank branches."

The 36-foot-long bank features everything you would expect to find in a traditional bank branch teller window, a conference area, a secure vault, even an ATM machine. Power is provided by a 20-Kilowatt generator.



A high-tech wireless satellite communication system transmits data from the mobile branch to the bank's main computer.

While the schedule for UNB's mobile branch is still evolving, visits at more than a dozen residential communities in Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren, Middlesex, Morris, Union, Monmouth and Essex counties are already planned. UNB also plans to use its mobile branch to provide ATM services at special events

and for educating children about banking at elementary schools across the region.

UNB is the principal subsidiary of United National Bancorp, a \$2.1 billion asset commercial bank holding company. The bank operates 35 offices throughout Essex, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Union and Warren counties in New Jersey.

United National provides a complete range of personal and business banking services.

IHF offers special mortgage rates to minorities

PARAMUS — Integrity Home Funding LLC is causing Christmas to come in January for a special group of people looking to buy a home: individuals with lower than average family incomes.

Integrity, one of the fastest growing mortgage bankers in New Jersey, has developed special mortgage programs which combine no-money-down with lower than normal interest rates.

Making the announcement

was Gene Menecchio, President of Integrity Home Funding.

"Home ownership is now a reality for many people who only dreamed about it," Menecchio said. "Thanks to the Community Reinvestment Act, Integrity Home Funding has funds specifically for individuals who have low to moderate incomes. We also have funds for those who want to buy homes in designated geographic areas."

Menecchio said applicants in

either category are eligible for mortgages with no money down and very low interest rates. And if an individual has a low to moderate income and wants to buy a home in a designated geographic area, that person can get even lower interest rates — so low that home ownership can now actually be cheaper than renting.

Now, people with credit ratings that are less than perfect or those who would have to spend a larger than normal percentage of their incomes on monthly mortgage payments can obtain mortgages at very low rates.

"For hard-working people, regardless of their income level, this is an amazingly good time to buy a home."

"The CRA was created by the Federal Government to help neighborhoods grow, flourish and maintain their character rather than have them change in ways that existing residents dislike. CRA programs provide mortgages without down payments and low interest rates.

Jackson continued from A1

opportunity and brought together multiracial, multicultural, corporate executives, small business, labor, rural and city under one umbrella that overlooks Wall Street, "the capital of capital."

"The under-served communities represent market, money, talent, location and growth," he said. "Since we started the Wall Street Project three years ago, we have seen that when we replace walls with bridges everyone wins. Building on our successes — from the establishment of the New Markets Initiative with President Clinton to expanding the Community Reinvestment Act, to assisting minority underwriters in gaining access to billion dollar underwriting assignments — we will continue to green-line redlined America."

The anniversary event featured an appearance by President Bill Clinton from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 13 at the conference's Millennium Awards Luncheon. Addressing an audience made up of roughly 2,000 of the country's corporate leaders on the importance of their participation in the economic development of under-served communities across the nation, he said economic opportunities should not be the political province of any particular party; it should be the brightlight of every American.

"This country owes a lot to the visionary business people who are involved in this movement and we owe a lot to Jesse Jackson for recognizing that this is the last Civil Rights frontier for the movement," Clinton said. "It's true that we have the lowest overall unemployment rate in 30 years; the longest sustained growth in history — longer even than during World War II when we were at our peak of war time production — and the highest employment rate for blacks and minorities, but it's also true that unemployment among those same groups is too high."

Clinton said if the country is in a position where it is registering all-time highs in so many economic categories, than what better time is there than the present to bridge the economic gap to people who have been left behind. He said the government can't do it alone and that is where the private sector and initiatives like the Wall Street Project come in.

Clinton also used the conference to announce more elements of his New Opportunity

Agenda. The agenda includes the expansion of the New Markets and Empowerment Zone Tax Credits, the



Photo by Herb Glenn

Rev. Jesse Jackson

new First Accounts initiative — an idea originally proposed by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Cal.) that will provide people earning low to moderate incomes with access to checking and savings accounts instead of purchasing money orders and using check cashing services that charge a fee for their services — and an invitation to corporate leaders to participate in a roundtable discussion at the White House on how the business community can build upon the successes of the Community Reinvestment Act.

Jackson, on the other hand, used the conference to highlight the success of the project in the areas of financial services, telecommunications, corporate commitments, the automotive industry, sports, stock purchases, new projects, economic literacy and the launch of the Minorities in the Financial Service website. The event also featured a host of lecturers, guest speakers and those famous, or otherwise.

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Minority Business Journal

The *Minority Business Journal* is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprises in New Jersey and New York City. **MBJ** regularly features the accomplishments of minority and

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POSITIVELY BLACK

The blessed power of this here moment

By Junious R. Stanton

With all the hoopla about the year 2000 — the New Millennium conjuring a spectrum of emotions running from euphoria and anticipation of the "Age of Aquarius" to the anxiety and dread of prophesied worst case Y2K computer snafus and breakdowns — we forget that each moment of every day is special.

We should condition ourselves to celebrate not just the New Year or the ushering in of a new millennium, but each now moment we have. We are blessed beyond measure no matter how bleak our outer circumstances may appear.

It is in our best interests to pause, not only to express our gratitude for being alive in this time and space, but to also thank our ancestors whose being, struggles, and sacrifices made it possible for us to be here — to appreciate the opportunities this moment affords.

No matter what today's date is, give thanks and celebrate its virtues. Accept the gift of a divine gift — present — another opportunity to transform ourselves, to be who infinite wisdom, intelligence and majesty created us to be.

This is an awesome moment. Not only do we have choices and options, we have the wherewithal and ability to manifest them and make them real.

We are all geniuses at one thing or another. We all have been endowed with talents, aptitudes and proclivities. The Creator knew this world would need to make it a heaven right here and now. Yes, a heaven here and now.

A great teacher once admonished those who heard his message to repent; meaning to change their minds, change the way they thought, what they thought about, how they viewed themselves and the world and how they related to one another because, he said, the Kingdom of God was at hand. For him "at hand" meant imminent here and now, discernible to those willing to expand their consciousness and open their hearts and minds to spiritual reality.

Unfortunately, his message got lost in the shuffle for worldly power, greed and envy. He taught in the oral tradition, via parables, proverbs and stories. In many of his stories the message was the importance of enjoying the present moment, the blessedness of now.

"Take no thought for the morrow," he said, "for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself."

Enjoy your now. If it is not what you would like it to be, change it by changing yourself right now.

I heard a man say that he has never read about or heard of anyone on a deathbed saying, "I wish I had spent more time at the office." Or, "I wish I was more ambitious, aggressive or driven."

Usually when it comes time to die people regret they never fully lived, that they didn't enjoy life more. Am I suggesting not to have goals and ambition? Of course not.

I am however saying take advantage of this moment to actualize the things that will give your life meaning and purpose.

Make today this moment count for something special.

Please submit your calendar items to:

Religion Calendar
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Metropolitan Baptist celebrates 62 years of progressive ministry 1938-2000



Metropolitan Baptist Church will celebrate 62 years of faithful service in the Photos by Herb Glenn Greater Newark Community on Jan. 23. Pastor David Jefferson has been progressively in moving the church into the 21st Century.

By Herb Glenn
Staff Writer

NEWARK — Metropolitan Baptist Church located, 149 Springfield Avenue, will be celebrating 62 years of providing religious inspiration to the Newark community on Jan. 23.

Since moving to its current sanctuary, the congregation has increased significantly. The church offers faith services through the teaching of the gospel, and has become a motivating refuge in helping to improve the spiritual lives of the 4000 members that worship there regularly.

Organized in 1938, the church is recognized as a thriving, successful institution. The late Rev. Dr. B.F. Johnson led the membership into the current facility, during his tenure in office which lasted from 1944 until his death in 1992. His direction provided the rich heritage that now grows the present disciples.

Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr. is only the third pastor to grace the church's pulpit. He has proven, by leading parishioners into the millennium by incorporating a determination to "exit the name of a risen savior," that he is a man of true conviction.

Jefferson said he is committed to seeking progressive ways in delivering the church's mission of spreading the gospel.

The church is designed to meet the needs of the community. Its sanctuary has the capacity to hold 1200 people.

The facility also has a professional sized gymnasium and a

spacious dining area. In addition, a more moderate chapel is available for family worship and not-so-large weddings.

Jefferson has helped to improve many of the ministries offered at the church, by developing a strong bond with the ministry leaders. He constantly emphasizes participation in



Pastor David Jefferson

weekly bible study held on Wednesday night.

Jefferson's effort has led to a steady influx of enthusiastic parishioners. His style of making people understand how to apply The Word to daily living is well received by all who attend.

"The church continues to grow as we enter the 62nd year under the leadership of Rev. Jefferson," said Celeste Bateman of Celeste Bateman and Associates, Public Relations Firm.

Bateman is a member of the church and takes part in many of the ministries.

"Dr. Jefferson has a great vision to spread the 'Word of God' throughout the greater-Newark community," she said.

Progression into the 21st century will depend heavily on the direction that Jefferson will be leading his flock. He has been very successful in organizing many community activities such as the Newark Community Choir, and is developing a strong Ministry Movement.

With the recent arrival of Dr. Dexter Allgood to direct the Music Ministry and Rev. Delmond Conter as the youth pastor, church members are excited and anticipate a victorious anniversary celebration this year.

Judy and Eric Hicks, who are the Audio Ministry leaders are, too, life long members from the church's Prince Street days.

"We would not have been able to accommodate this many people in the old church," Judy said.

In 1999, 424 new disciples were added to the church membership list.

Sunday services are broken into two sessions: first service at 7:00-9:30 A.M., with a period for breakfast and Sunday School, followed by a 10:45 A.M. service with a praise team devotion.

"Metropolitan has the capability to do great things," said Pastor David Jefferson. He feels that with the divine grace of God and his anointed people, the church will continue to do well.

How does the Word at your house of worship inspire you?

By Elesthea Watson

Several years ago, I visited Fountain Baptist Church in Summit. I never returned throughout the succeeding years until this past year, 1999.

My adult daughter and I were seeking a church home. She was enthused with one in Orange and another in Plainfield peaked my interest.

During this search, I kept telling her that we should visit Fountain Baptist Church.

For a couple of years we have

'On our first visit we immediately felt that God sent us there. A few weeks later at the end of July we joined.'

been learning the Word through the televised teachings of two of our favorite ministers. We were open and receptive to the Word, but the churches we visited didn't fulfill us until we went to Fountain Baptist Church last summer.

On our first visit we immediately felt that God sent us there. A few weeks later at the end of July, we joined. Pastor Sanders, his assistant, Rev. Porter, associate ministers, deacons and

deaconesses present God's Word in a manner that enlightens gets to the heart, encourages daily living of the Word, and inspires us to seek to know more and live more in line with God's will for our lives.

My daughter, who is 30-plus, has been inspired to pursue a career in medicine. God's Word has reassured her that she is following his will for her life.

My daughter knows that all things are possible with the power of the Anointed One and the Holy Spirit working within her. Hearing, seeing, speaking and living the Word through the teachings at Fountain Baptist Church, keeps her focused on her studies and determined to succeed.

The week of December 6-9, Pastor Sanders conducted a Bible Study Revival. It was a most wonderful time.

Can you imagine 200 plus people coming for bible study nightly? I was in awe as Pastor Sanders made us understand the mighty God-given blessings we, the redeemed, have as Paul told the Ephesians. Never before have I seen so clearly and profoundly what an amazing gift has been bestowed on us nor how vital it is for us to be obedient to God's word and will as witnesses for Christ.

The teaching and preaching at Fountain Baptist Church have inspired me to write my testimonies as I witness and grow in my walk with Jesus, the anointed One. Praise God.

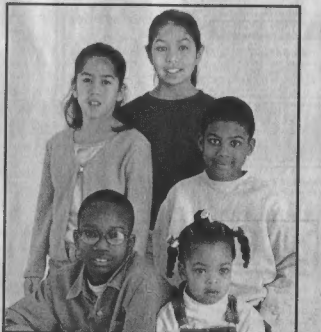
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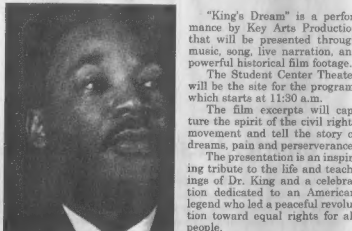
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Rider University's tribute to MLK celebrates 'Continue the Dream'



LAWRENCEVILLE — A multimedia production titled "King's Dream," and the kickoff to a campus-wide Habitat for Humanity community service project "Continue the Dream," will highlight Rider University's Martin Luther King Day Program on Feb. 3.

"As has become tradition, Rider celebrates its King Day Program after students return for the start of the second semester when school is back in session.

"King's Dream" is a performance by Key Arts Production that will be presented through music, song, live narration, and powerful historical film footage.

The Student Center Theater will be the site for the program, which starts at 11:30 a.m.

The film excerpts will capture the spirit of the civil rights movement and tell the story of dreams, pain and perseverance.

The presentation is an inspiring tribute to the life and teachings of Dr. King and a celebration dedicated to an American legend who led a peaceful revolution toward equal rights for all people.

The university will launch a campus-wide service project to continue Dr. King's dream by joining Habitat for Humanity to build a home in Trenton for a family in need.

"As we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, we will ask all students, faculty, and staff to join in this campus-wide community service project," said Don Brown, director of Rider's Multicultural Center.

"We will promote the project throughout the semester at various campus events."

The Dreamer

Dr. Martin Luther King was a man with a vision who stood up and made a historic decision he organized people marched he went to jail more than one time firm in faith simply divine Vietnam broke out he spoke out against the war struggling for liberation is what he died for his family is still pressing on marching strong 'til victory is won

By Kai Wallace

Making history count is worthy in New Jersey

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, The Tuskegee Airmen, the all black town of Lawnside, The Leaguers are all historic legacy's within the black community. Your family's genealogy that you have kept well documented like a prized possession, help to tell the story of generations that have given way to a family continuum. Why not have your family or organization's history recognized? Now is your opportunity.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is seeking nominations for their 55th annual awards program to recognize state and local history projects. Nominations in the state of New Jersey must be received by the state chair, Sally Yerkovich, executive director of The New Jersey Historical Society, prior to March 1, 2000. Each nomination must have a completed official nomination form and supporting documentation. Notice of the awards will be made by August 1, 2000.

The AASLH began the awards program in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state, provincial, and local history throughout North America. The organization is a nationwide coalition of historical organizations and museums that present the history of their states and regions to a broad audience.

Awards will be conferred for special accomplishments that will have occurred within the 18 months prior to March 1, 2000. Organizations must have been in operation for at least three years to be considered for an award. Eligible nominees include state, county, regional, and local historical societies, institutions, museums, whether publicly or privately supported, specialized subject societies in such fields as history, genealogy, folklore, archaeology, business history, railroad history, etc., junior historical societies and other groups of young people engaged in state, county, or local history, organizations contributing significantly to the understanding and development of local history or historical programs, such as business firms, labor unions, publishers, patriotic societies, newspapers, privately owned restorations, museums, and foundations; and individuals, including volunteers, authors, editors, filmmakers, history professionals, etc., who have not received an AASLH award within the past seven years.

There are four types of awards available. The Award of Merit recognizes an activity deemed excellent compared with similar activities elsewhere in North America. The Certificate of Commendation is presented for excellence within the context of available means and regional standards. The Albert B. Corey Award honors a founder and former president of AASLH and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work. Nominations for this award are made by the regional chairs of the AASLH Awards Committee. The Award of Distinction is given infrequently and only in recognition of long and very distinguished service. Recipients are recognized for their contributions to the field of state and local history and are recognized nationally as leaders in the profession.

The Tuskegee Airmen as portrayed in the television movie. Some of the Original Tuskegee Airmen reside in New Jersey.

There are four types of awards available. The Award of Merit recognizes an activity deemed excellent compared with similar activities elsewhere in North America. The Certificate of Commendation is presented for excellence within the context of available means and regional standards. The Albert B. Corey Award honors a founder and former president of AASLH and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work. Nominations for this award are made by the regional chairs of the AASLH Awards Committee. The Award of Distinction is given infrequently and only in recognition of long and very distinguished service. Recipients are recognized for their contributions to the field of state and local history and are recognized nationally as leaders in the profession.



Make your history count. Family genealogy, folklore, and historic organization and institutions are eligible for achievement awards by the state's historical society.



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circa photos like the one above help tell the story of the past.

Requests for nomination materials or information may be made by contacting Sally Yerkovich, AASLH New Jersey State Chair, The New Jersey Historical Society, (973) 596-8500 ext 247.



Local Briefs

Greater Newark Urban Child Care Initiative

The Child Care Connection and Programs for Parents, the New Jersey Community Loan Fund announces a new and similar program for staff members from 30 centers in Essex County. With the help of funding from the Prudential Foundation and PSE&G, the Urban Child Care Initiative will be offered during a 12-month period for those centers in Newark, Irvington, Orange and East Orange. The initiative gives child care providers the training and skills necessary to offer high quality early care at a reasonable rate to low income families. This landmark program will teach business, marketing and management skills, train individuals in important of quality. Caregivers from centers in Newark, Irvington, Orange, and East Orange are invited to enter the selective application process. The application deadline is January 21, 2000. Names of participating centers chosen will be announced on March 6. For an application, please contact the NUCCLF at (609) 989-7766.

Microsoft gives \$15,000 to First Baptist youth computer lab

The First Baptist Community Development Corporation (FBCDC) was awarded \$15,000 and educational software to enhance their existing youth computer lab through Microsoft's Connected Learning Community (CLC) grant program. According to Microsoft, their CLC program seeks to enhance learning and communication in disadvantaged communities by expanding access to information technology. CLASS, the Center for Learning about Success, was established last year by the FBCDC to close the digital divide that exists between the Renaissance 2000 neighborhood and other communities. The funds received from the CLC program will be used to purchase new computers and printers for their existing youth computer lab that falls under the umbrella of CLASS. The new computers will be used to enhance the mentoring, tutoring and summer youth programs. "The ultimate benefit of this grant will be increased awareness and utilization of technology by youth who have limited access to computers," says Teresa Silva, technology coordinator. According to Silva, this year the FBCDC plans to launch a technology and telecommunications youth exchange program where twenty-five students in the Renaissance 2000 neighborhood will communicate with children in three other communities in New Jersey. The youth computer lab is located in the basement of the First Baptist Community Complex in Somerset. Other computer stations are available to adults and children free of charge and are fully equipped with word processing, educational, multimedia, and digital imaging software. Computer stations are located in the lobby of the First Baptist Community Complex. For more information, contact Teresa Silva at 247-0444.

Get ready for Rutgers Academic Challenge

More than 140 high schools throughout the state have submitted applications for the 114 slots in the second annual Rutgers Academic Challenge. More than 800 students on nearly 100 teams came to Rutgers to participate in last year's inaugural competition. Selecting on a first-come, first-served basis, the 114 participating schools in the first round of regional tournaments next spring have been identified. The schools will form teams to compete for the President's Cup, as well as for group and individual cash awards. The competition will begin with the Central Regional Tournament Saturday, Feb. 5, 2000, on Rutgers' Douglass College campus in New Brunswick. The Southern Regional Tournament will take place Saturday, Feb. 26, on Rutgers' Camden campus, and the Northern tournament will get under way Saturday, March 11, on the Newark campus. Winners will compete in regional semifinals Saturday, March 25, on the university's Busch campus. The regional finals and the state championship will be broadcast on NJN Public Television. As state champion, John P. Stevens received the President's Cup and award of \$1,000 to the school, as well as \$1,000 to each member of the team. For more information about the Challenge, call Sonja Souther at (732) 445-3710.

Subscribe to City News

973-642-4400

Harvard's Gates donates Encarta Africana CD-ROMs to Newark Public Schools

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

NEWARK — Imagine being able to just roll out of bed and take a tour of the Great Pyramid at Giza in Egypt, or deciding to take a stroll to the Apollo Theater in Harlem to see a young Aretha Franklin — in her prime and at the height of her vocal ability — perform her signature song "Respect," from your home in Des Moines, Iowa, or a classroom in the city of Newark.

Well, flights of fancy like that and many more are now very much possible thanks to the Microsoft Encarta Africana CD-ROMs created by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Kwame Anthony Appiah; just ask the students of Camden Middle Technology School, 301 Bergen Street, Newark.

"I think it's great that they gave us this CD-ROM so we can learn more about our culture and history," said Jerrius Harrison, 10, of Irvine Turner Boulevard, who used the new software to learn more about Franklin, who she thinks is "a great singer."

"I didn't know that she started singing when she was 14," Harrison said.

Alvaro Minaya, 14, used the software to take a virtual tour of Egypt and, according to him, the experience was made that much more profound by the unique features built into Encarta Africana which make use of every sense other than taste.

"In one word, it's wonderful because of the interactive nature of it," said Waymon Huggins, the computer teacher at Camden Middle. "It's not a game, but it's engaging to students and provides them with information that can make them feel good about themselves."

"The technology, information, multimedia aspects of it and the links to the Internet and the World Wide Web make it like a portal to the technological skills they are going to be needing in the 21st Century," Huggins said.

Gates and Appiah are the co-creators of Microsoft Encarta Africana, the first encyclopedia of African and people of African descent.

Gates and Appiah were in Newark for this," he said.



Dr. Henry Louis Gates is one of the co-creators of Encarta Africana.

Newark on Jan. 6 to present 82 CD-ROMs to the Public School District, and the impact their visit had on them would have been obvious to everyone present even if Gates had not said anything about it — which he did.

"I'll never forget the children of Newark for this," he said.

"I've been around the country to different cities presenting our work and this was the first classroom I've been in that is actually running — using the program. I can't tell you how excited I am about that."

The compact disks — one for every school in the district — are

worth a total of \$5,000 and will be used to install the program on as many computers as possible so all students have access to help with their studies.

Microsoft Encarta Africana is a multimedia encyclopedia that provides historical and cultural information about Africa and people of African descent and encourages the use of new technology by African-American students.

The donation was made possible thanks to the Educational Networking Foundation — a non-profit organization of which Gates is a founder — which supplies schools with free copies of the CD-ROM on request so they may access the information online via the Internet.

"We truly appreciate this generous donation to our schools," said Marion Bolden, the State District Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools.

"African and African-American history are an integral part of the social studies curriculum and Encarta Africana is an in-depth encyclopedia from which all our students can learn."

Minority Interchange Inc., Gives Constance O. Garrettson Award to Prudential Executive VP Robert C. Golden

NEWARK — Robert Charles Golden, Executive Vice President of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, has been given Minority Interchange Inc.'s Constance O. Garrettson Special Recognition Award.

The award is conferred on senior executives who have shown outstanding business and community leadership.

Golden runs Prudential's Operations and Systems, managing a staff of 27,000 employees who provide administrative support to Company operations.

Golden's 23 year tenure with Prudential includes his previous appointment as Chief Administrative Officer, Prudential Securities, where he was responsible for Operations, Systems and Human Resources.

MII is a non-profit organization which provides career development and community service opportunities for executive and professional employees.

Previous winners of the Garrettson Award include Susan Taylor, Editor, Essence Magazine and The Rev. Galvin Butts, Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church.

"This is not an annual award," said Connie Dillon, president, Minority Interchange.

"Consideration of candidates for this award by our National Board of Directors occurs only when an individual for exceeds others in their support of Minority Interchange and its mission. It is the highest honor we can bestow," she said.

"Receiving this award has been a great honor for myself and my family," Golden said.

"Most importantly, I'm grateful that I have been given the opportunity to serve my colleagues at Prudential and many others within my community."

Golden is also an active

sponsor of Prudential employee initiatives, including employee heritage celebrations and employee sponsorship by The Prudential Foundation and Prudential Community Resources.

Numerous humanitarian organizations receive Golden's time and support, including Heart Share Human Services of New York, Bevyfort Benevolent Associates and The Cathedral Club of Brooklyn.

Prudential, with \$375 billion in total assets managed and administered at year-end 1998.

Prudential is one of the largest life insurance companies in North America and one of the largest diversified financial institutions in the world.

Prudential has a global presence in 30 countries, providing a variety of products and services in the areas of insurance, investments, securities and real estate to more than 30 million customers.



Connie Dillon, left, president, Minority Interchange, Inc. presents Constance O. Garrettson Special Recognition Award to Robert Charles Golden, Vice President Insurance Company of America.

Assembly approves interest-free loans

The Assembly Solid and Hazardous Waste Committee recently approved legislation Assemblyman Lefroy J. Jones Jr. sponsored to provide no-interest loans for non-profit organizations that need to remove or repair underground fuel storage tanks.

The bill, A-3505, is designed to broaden the scope of eligible applicants who may apply for financial assistance from the state Underground Storage Tank Remediation, Upgrade and Closure Fund. Currently, non-profit groups do not qualify for no-interest loans from the fund.

"It is in the state's best interest to provide special assistance such as this for organizations that make it their business to help others," said Jones. "D. Eassey."

"It was unusual public policy for the state to collect interest on loans to charities and the like that encountered problems with underground storage tanks."

Churches, civic organizations and other non-profit groups that own properties with under-

ground storage tanks would benefit from the no-interest loan measure.

The tanks are often constructed of concrete, steel, and plastic and are used to contain motor fuel, petroleum products and other hazardous materials. Many aging tanks are prone to leaks, posing a serious pollution risk. But repairs and removal of old tanks are expensive, especially for non-profit groups.

"A balance needs to be struck between the goal of protecting the environment and maintaining the state's network of non-profit organizations," said Jones. "This measure helps free charitable organizations of the burden of remediating problematic underground storage tanks."

Besides providing no-interest loans, the Jones bill enables the state Department of environmental Protection to dismiss or negotiate any fees or penalties due and payable on a regulated storage tank owned by nonprofit organization.

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Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, I.J.S.A. 10-4-6 (a) 102, a, a public hearing will be held at the "Sunshine Law," the Newark Public School District wishes to announce the following:

THE NEWARK ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS WILL ATTEND AN ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2000.

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

The Retreat will be held at The Hazell Center (Student Center) New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, corner of Central Avenue and Luck Street, Newark, New Jersey

Tentative Agenda:

- I. Report of the State District Superintendent
- II. Discussion - 2000 School Board Election
- III. Board Discussion - Topic to be Determined

NO FORMAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS SESSION

Marion A. Bolden
State District Superintendent

*Minimum 24-hour
ATM locations



CityLife

Jesse and the King

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

NEWARK — A little more than 30 years ago the city of Newark found itself in the midst of an explosion of violence brought on by years of penned up frustrations, from too many dreams deferred. That explosion was the riots of 1967, but afterwards the city's affluent, white merchants and residents ran for the hills — or, in this case, the suburbs — and took their money and all the things it can buy — police protection, good schools, quality housing, etc., with them.

Ask anyone over the age of 45 what the city was like before the riots and they will talk about how beautiful everything was. They'll talk about how Newark was one of the major cities in the country, not just New Jersey. And the remnants of the Weequahic section, the North Ward, Ivy Hill and other parts of the city tell the story of what Newark used to be — thriving downtown shops, progressive night life and a variety of people who called it home.

The riots, which occurred after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, undoubtedly left the Newark community reeling and the aftermath can still be seen today. That being the case, it was no coincidence that on Jan. 16 — one day after King's birthday and one day before it was officially observed on Jan. 17 — the Rev. Jesse Jackson was at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 149 Springfield Avenue, talking about what we need to do to honor King's legacy and memory including reviving the city of Newark.

Jackson was there to participate in the church's memorial celebration, which also doubled as the lead-in event for its economic summit, "Burstin' Loose: Realizing Our Economic Potential and Prosperity." He was joined by Reverend David Jefferson Jr., the pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Congressman Donald Payne, D-Newark, Assemblyman William Payne, D-29th, Mayor James McGreevey of Woodbridge, and former Manhattan Borough President Perry Suton, at the event they hope marks the continuation of Newark's comeback from the riots of '68.

"No matter how you celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday, if you're in credit card debt and waiting for LOTTO to bail you out, then there is something wrong," Jackson said. "Money grows on trees if it's planted in money mud."

Jackson said the next logical step in the evolution of the Civil Rights movement is the economic empowerment of minorities and women. He said the way to do that is for Blacks and others to individually and collectively come together, pool their resources, learn how to handle it responsibly, and thereby take control of their lives and destinies in America.

Accordingly, Jackson said he was glad to be on hand for the event which also served as the coming out party for Metropolitan's

community development corporation — the Resurrection Urban Development Corporation. The church, working together with the city of Newark and the nonprofit New Community Corporation, is planning to develop a \$16.8 million shopping center that will be called the Newark Towne Center.

Resurrection and NCC — a subsidiary of the Rev. Jesse Jackson — Newark

Archdiocese of the Catholic Church — will develop a 115,000-square-foot Kmart, a gasoline service station and a family restaurant. The shopping center will be bound by Springfield Avenue, South Orange Avenue on one side and Jones Street and Broome Street on the other.

The city's development corporation will provide about \$5.9 million in federal funds and another \$500,000 will come from state environmental funds. According to Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Housing, Al Faiella, there is a possibility that the insurance company, Prudential, will give \$10 million to the project — they have already signed a letter of intent to put up loans for the project and Kmart has as well.

The city cleared the site for the Towne Center project over the course of the last 10 or 11 years. The project itself has been in the works for a number of years as well, having once been contracted out to K. Horvath Enterprises. However, that deal fell through and even though the company is seeking to recoup the \$1 million it paid for blueprints, marketing studies and environmental assessments, according to Faiella, a settlement is in the works.

Construction could begin in six months and take another year to complete. In addition to the new Towne Center, Metropolitan Church will be the sole developer of other projects, including a bank, hotel, Bible college, employment and educational training center, and assisted living housing for senior citizens.

The plan is to get entrepreneurs who want to make a profit by investing in the development, and because of that it will not be a nonprofit venture. Funding for the other projects Metropolitan is undertaking has not been secured yet, but according to Jefferson they are hoping to raise money from federal grants and programs, banks and the congregation.

Jefferson, who is an executive at AT&T, in addition to being the pastor of the church, was joined by Professor Leonard Jeffries, congressional candidate Jon Corzine and a host of others Monday to continue their celebration of the life and works of Rev. King and the second part of their economic development summit.

Day two of the summit involved a breakfast event that featured James as the keynote speaker and a series of seminars designed to teach church members and others how to manage their finances and to maximize their economic potential.

"We are turning into a mega-church, but in our eyesight there is no such thing as a big and little churches," Jefferson said. "We have to get everyone involved so we can do this together."



Jesse Jackson poses with Pastor David Jefferson (left) and Pastor Reginald Jackson.



Pastor David Jefferson takes a moment to pose with Jesse Jackson during the economic development summit at Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Photos by Herbert Glenn

CityLife

URT play asks "Are You Ready My Sister?"



PLAINSBORO — "Are You Ready My Sister?" a play for the entire family, will be performed at 3 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the West Windsor-Plainsboro Middle School, 55 Grovers Mill Road.

The performance is being sponsored by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, in association with the NAACP. Metuchen-Edison Area Branch as part of the commission's Storytellers Cottage Series. The play itself is a production of the Underground Railway Theater, funded in part by the Gannett Foundation/Home News Tribune, Target Stores, and the Colgate-Palmolive Company.

The play is being hosted by the Plainsboro Arts Partnership. The performance is being offered free of charge, but requires pre-registration.

"Are You Ready My Sister?" tells the story of Harriet Tubman, renowned conductor of the Underground Railroad and the Quaker women who helped her bring 300 slaves to freedom. The historical adventure story is told by two actors and one puppeteer using a giant patchwork quilt.

As the actors reenact the story, each square of the quilt comes to life with shadow puppets and painted scenery. The play also features audience participation, dramatic scenes and live music based on the spirituals of the slave era.

The stories of some of America's great heroes can be found in the history of the Underground Railroad movement. Despite all odds, and at risk of losing one's family and freedom, Americans of all races and religious backgrounds participated in an attempt to eradicate the institution of slavery.

Thousands of enslaved Black Americans were helped to escape from a life of bondage and forced labor, where they were denied the most fundamental human rights as well as these inalienable rights of the Declaration of Independence. The men and women who helped them escape put themselves at great risk, as the law was on the side of the slave holders, and they could be severely punished for attempting to "steal away" slaves. This did not stop the Underground Railroad.

It was not a real railroad, but rather an intricate system that sprang up from those who were willing to open their homes, boats, and places of business to those who were willing to risk their lives to attain freedom. There were escaped slaves, like Harriet Tubman, taking a tremendous risk by returning to slave states to help others find their way North.

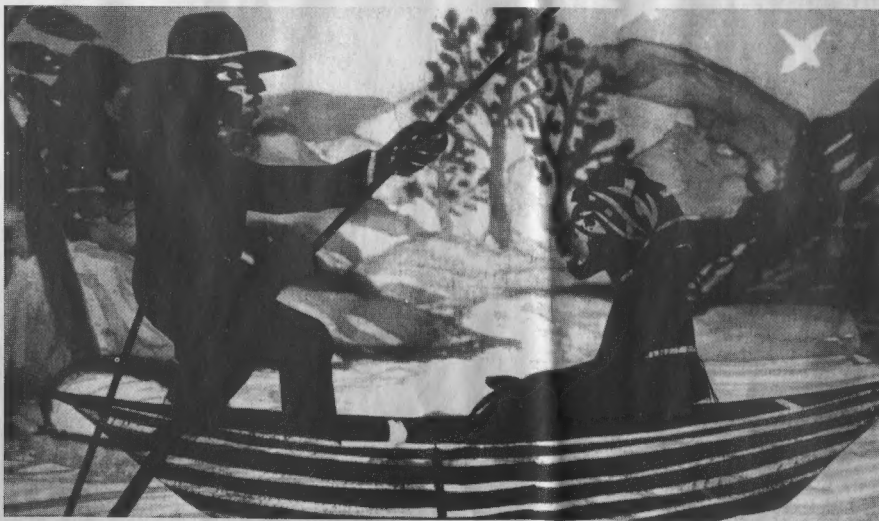
There were children of escaped slaves, like New Jersey's own William Still, helping many escaped slaves who passed through his south-Jersey home. There were people who literally stood in the way of slave catchers and refused to allow escaped slaves to be taken back to the plantation.

And there were songs - like "Follow the Drinking Gourd" - and code words that were developed to help the escapees communicate along the Railroad without being discovered. All in all, it is an amazing story of a group of Americans who stood up for what they believed was right and who risked everything to work against the injustice of slavery.

The Underground Railway Theater is a 21-year-old Equity theater company that creates and performs original shows for family and young audiences. For more information, or to register, call the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission at (732) 745-4489 or (732) 745-3888.



3 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the West Windsor-Plainsboro Middle School, 55 Grovers Mill Road



Do you have an event you would like to highlight in CityLife? Call (973) 642-4400 to find out how to profile your event in City News today.

Heartbeat Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on special needs trusts at the New Jersey Law Center 7 p.m. (732) 248-5000

NEW YORK - The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's Wall Street Project hosts its "Career Opportunity and Employment Expo at the New York Sheraton Hotel Convention Center Call 1-(800)-395-5512 for information

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

NEWARK - NJIT hosts a seminar on government contracting for small businesses at the Mary Roebeling Building in Trenton 10 a.m. (609) 343-4845

NEW BRUNSWICK - The Central Jersey Job Developers Association hosts its 16th Annual Job Fair at the Rutgers Labor Education Center 9 a.m. (732) 745-5300

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

NEWARK - SCORE hosts a seminar on starting and managing your own business at Two Gateway Center 8:30 a.m. (973) 945-3962

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEW YORK - Professional Women in Construction hosts breakfast forum, "Meet the Women Developers" Development of museums, landmarks, residential communities through housing and construction financing. At the Yale Club 8:30 a.m. (212) 687-0610

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

MT HOLLY - NJIT hosts a seminar on government contracting for small business at the Burlington County College 10 a.m. (609) 343-4845

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on estate and federal income tax at the New Jersey Law Center 7 p.m. (732) 248-5000

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

WASHINGTON - The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts its 63rd Congressional Dinner at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel through Feb. 4. Call (609) 888-7888 for information

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on estate and federal income tax at the New Jersey Law Center 7 p.m. (732) 248-5000

CDC urges diabetics to get flu shots

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention and state health agencies are urging people with diabetes to get vaccinated against flu and pneumococcal pneumonia. Diabetics are three times more likely to die with flu and pneumonia than people without diabetes. Only half of people with diabetes get annual flu shots and only a third have ever gotten a pneumococcal shot, says the CDC. Black Americans, who are less likely to get immunized against flu and pneumococcal pneumonia even though they are disproportionately affected by diabetes, are especially encouraged to get vaccinated.

Of all non-Hispanic blacks, 10.8 percent have diabetes compared with only 7.8 percent of non-Hispanic whites. Yet, according to a recent national study, only 48 percent of African Americans reported getting an annual flu shot and only 25 percent of them reported ever having gotten a pneumococcal shot, also known as a pneumonia shot.

People with diabetes need to get a flu shot every year before flu season, which usually runs from November through March. One pneumococcal shot is generally enough protection for a lifetime for most people, but people under 65 years with a chronic illness such as diabetes or weakened immune system should ask their doctor about getting another pneumococcal shot 5 to 10 years after their first one. It is safe to get a pneumococcal shot at the same time as a flu shot.

"Getting the flu or pneumonia isn't good for anyone with a chronic disease. For those with diabetes, the flu or pneumonia dramatically disrupts the daily management of the disease and can be deadly," said CDC Director Dr. Jeffrey Koolan.

Art exhibit brings focus to AIDS epidemic among blacks

MORRISTOWN — From Jan. 16 to March 19, the Morris Museum will be taking a look at a rather compelling issue with an exhibit entitled, "Women First: A Reflection on Women Living with HIV."

"Women First" is a thoughtful, photographic journey that portrays the struggles, triumphs and empowering events in the everyday lives of women with HIV. The women are depicted throughout the photo expose as living life fully and not merely existing.

"There are couples loving and laughing, there's a Black American woman hugging her son, and a woman sitting proudly in the front pew of a church," said Catherine Memory, development associate at the museum. "There's thoughtfulness on a deep level, some photos are somber, but not morbid or depressing."

The incidence of HIV has nearly doubled within the last 10 years among women, making AIDS one of the top killers of women aged 24-44, said Executive Director Steven Kindt. "This makes Women First particularly poignant and timely."

The 16 women who took part in the clinical trial agreed to permit physician-photographer Art Myers to document their lives through the 31 black and white photographs in the exhibition. One thing shines through — each



"Carmen" is one of the provocative photos featured in the exhibit at the Morris Museum in Morristown

woman has her eyes on the future — some plan to continue their education, others enjoy motherhood, and each is taking steps toward independence. For more information telephone

(973) 538-0454

Number of black, Hispanic men with AIDS passes whites for first time

ATLANTA (AP) — For the first time since AIDS captured the

White gay men with AIDS in 1998, while the Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif., metro area had the most cases of Hispanic gay men with AIDS.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported recently that minorities represent 52 percent of 18,153 gay and bisexual men who were diagnosed with AIDS in 1998. By contrast, minorities represented 31 percent in 1989. Black men made up one-third of the cases, while Hispanics represented 18 percent. Asian and Pacific Islanders made up 1 percent of the cases.

Researchers at the CDC said the report suggests that the stigma of homosexuality plays a role in spreading the disease among minority groups. Blacks and Hispanics are less likely than whites to identify themselves as gay or seek AIDS prevention and treatment services, they said. "Clearly, all the evidence suggests that it's harder to be a gay man of color in this society than it is to be a White gay man," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's national center for HIV. In a survey of 8,780 infected men who had sex with other men, researchers asked, "Do you think of yourself as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or other?" Nearly one quarter — 24 percent — of black men and 18 percent of Hispanics considered themselves heterosexual.

Doctor-prescribed program meets ergonomic standards

A top Orthopedic Surgeon is recommending a simple stretching routine to help prevent repetitive stress injuries that are plaguing workforces around the globe and forcing the U.S. government to establish ergonomic standards for American businesses.

Houshang Seradge, MD, a board certified hand surgeon and Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, has developed an effective stretching routine that businesses and government agencies are using to prevent carpal tunnel syndrome.

one of the most common repetitive stress injuries. At Lopez Foods in Oklahoma City, 350 assembly line workers perform Dr. Seradge's clinically

Training videos demonstrating the stretches are included in a new ergonomics package that provides information on carpal tunnel syndrome.

tested stretching routine before each shift. As a result, employee reports of pain in the hand, wrist, elbow,

arm or shoulder declined nearly 40 percent in one year.

The training videos demonstrating the stretches are included in a new ergonomics package that provides information on the risk signs and symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome and the importance of injury prevention and early detection.

The videos also provide computer users with a helpful demonstration on how to avoid neck and back pain while working at a keyboard.

For more information, visit the web-site www.ergoprogram.com or call toll free 1-888-999-1646



Plainfield Health Center gets \$375,000 grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

PLAINFIELD — Plainfield Health Center was recently awarded a grant of \$375,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The grant, to be allocated over the next three years, will support the establishment and operation of a PHC school-based health center at Washington Elementary School in Plainfield. The grant is being made under the Foundation's New Jersey Health Initiatives program.

PHC's elementary school-based health center opened on Jan. 1. The new health facility will provide on-site access to primary health care for the Wash-

ington Elementary School children. As another component of the school-based program, PHC will also offer outreach health care activities to three neighboring schools — Jefferson, Clinton, and Stillman — bringing primary health care access to a population of more than 1,600 students.

Washington Elementary School is located in the western section of Plainfield; a culturally diverse community that is part of PHC's historical service area. The new school-based service will be situated inside the school, which is located at 427 Darrow Avenue.

New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Youth and Family Services

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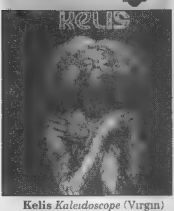
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City News takes a look at the health issues on the minds of African Americans in a special section titled

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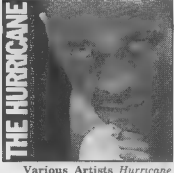
Music Reviews



Kelis Kaleidoscope (Virgin)

In the mess of producers and singers who crowd the music scene with their different styles and tastes, the odds of coming across a good producer and singer who get together so good are great. But just as people thought the great collaborations like Janet Jackson, Terry Lewis and Jimmy Jam, and Missy Elliott and Timbaland were gone, here comes Kelis and her crew.

Kelis has an exceptional voice that reminds one of Lauryn Hill without the raspiness, and her production team of Pharell Williams and Chad Hugo has managed to capture the essence of her talent and together they have produced a nice selection of music.



Various Artists Hurricane Soundtrack (MCA Records)

Just like the movie, the music on its soundtrack transcends many generations and times in history. And despite the appearance of many contemporary artists, the selection manages to escape music commercialism and is a very smooth and revolutionary piece evoking deep thought.

One standout from the past is "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised," by Gil Scott-Heron, and "Hard Times No One Knows," by Ray Charles.

On the more contemporary front, Melky Sedek (the siblings of Wyclef Jean) record one of its best creations in "Still I Rise," which engages soft melodic intro with just a hit of hip-hop that blends in with the silky flow of this album. Adding to that, the delectativeness turn it up on "I Don't Know," and McShel Ndegeocello works her bass guitar on "Isolation."

Upcoming music releases January 25

"Endangered Species Y2K" Big Punisher

"It's About Time" Flavor Flav

"20th Century Masters: The Millennium Collection" Bobby "Blue" Bland

Old school meets the new school through book soundtrack

By Rob Williams Staff Writer

Long before the black community gained insight into the gangsta life through "Boyz in the Hood," and "Tupac, they had the answer screen in their mind, inspired by the words of author Donald Goines.

Now one of his readers, Black Hand Entertainment CEO Chas Williams, has taken one of Goines' bestselling books about the gangsta life and produced a soundtrack of today's hottest hip-hop and rap acts spewing lyrics inspired by the book.

This innovative idea of making a soundtrack to a book has spawned the interest of both the film and music industry, as they have watched the sales reach an impressive 50,000 units with radio play or big promotions.

"Robert Beck and Donald Goines told the stories of the urban experience. That is what rappers do today. Tupac even mentioned Donald Goines on his album, 'All Eyes On Me,'" Williams said in a telephone interview.

Released in July 1999, the

album features a mix of heavy-hitters and newcomers, including Jay Z, Jas Rule (who recorded his track before he gained notoriety), DMX, Ghetto Mafia, and Donnell Jones, Jane Blaise, Mac Dre, Mysonne, Fifty Cent, and Freddie Foxxx.

Williams gave a copy of the book "Black Gangster," which will be released as a film later this year, to the artists and asked them not to talk about the characters, but talk about what they drew from the book.

"I told them I don't want you to make songs about the characters. Re-read and interpret in today's term... express whatever it makes you feel."

Jay Z said the more things change, the more things stay the same. Freddie Foxxx got a pump feel from the 1970s. Donnell Jones got "I Hope It's You" from the relationship between Ruby and Prince, and DMX told the whole story.

The album also features a hidden track by Goines' son, Donald Jr., who expressed his thanks and support for the album.

"He said this album was long overdue. He was proud to bring

his father to the album.

"I got letters from his family and brother, and Don Jr. reached out to me saying the family was willing to do whatever they could to help the project."

Other producers who worked on the album with Williams included the Beat Assassins, Doc, G-Real, and Eddie F., formerly of the Heavy D and the Boys.

As for the movie, Williams brought the rights to the book two years ago and is currently in negotiations to get the film produced. Among the companies he has talked to is Russell Simmons' Def Jam.

Williams hopes the movie and the soundtrack will get across a positive message and draw attention to Goines, who was shot to death at his typewriter over 20 years ago.

"Once I talked to a girl in grade school whose father gave her the book to read to see both sides of life without experiencing the gangsta life. What impressed me was when she told me she would never think of getting involved with that [after she read the book]."



Jay Z (left) with producer Chas Williams

Dru Hill's Sisqo shows talent with 'Unleash the Dragon'

By Monica K Lee

NNPA — The provocative "Thong Song" released by Dru Hill's lead singer Sisqo, is currently one of the most requested songs being aired on Black radio nationwide. He is extremely excited about the success of this single from his first solo album, "Unleash the Dragon."

"It is going to be the biggest song of my career," said the Baltimorean, who credits club music for influencing the upbeat dance single.

While deejays are embracing "Thong Song," producers recently rejected Sisqo's concept for the song's video, which would have included explicit images of women in thongs. "I wanted to

have a nationwide contest last turning 25 women, 18 and older selected by male on-air personalities to appear in the video, but the legal ramifications put a halt to my concept of the video," he said.

However, he still wants to have women of all ethnicities wearing thongs that can only be seen through special cinematography.

"Guys want to see the thong, but they are not trying to touch the thong. They are not trying to touch the girl, they want to watch the thong. 'Let me see that thong,' he said. The woman that I am talking about in the video is (uninhibited) and 'Love La Vida Loca'."

"I am a role model. I want to

shoot a responsible video, but I also want to do something for my adult audience as well." Subsequently, Sisqo is going to shoot a clean and risqué version of the video. His five-year-old daughter, Ayanna, will appear in the clean version.

Many don't know there almost wasn't a "Thong Song," or "Unleash the Dragon." Sisqo insists that if Woody had not returned to the group he would have resigned from the music business. And if his collaboration with Will Smith on "Wild Wild West" soundtrack had not been such a positive experience he would not have released his first solo album.

"I had to capitalize on the success of the 'Wild Wild West

and I needed to hurry up and put an album out before they forgot me," he said.

It is hard to fathom that the 22-year-old, physically fit heartthrob could ever be forgotten. Along with Dru Hill members Woody, Niko and Jazz, Sisqo has been seducing women of all ages for the last three years. Who can forget "In My Bed" and "Three Wishes"? Now Sisqo is standing centerstage serenading his audience with "Is Love Enough" and "Your Love is Incredible." He is proving that he is a versatile performer with tremendous creativity and energy.

Dru Hill fans will be relieved to know the group is still together. Sisqo said the members are

simply branching out separately to bring more recognition to the group. "Enchantment Passing Through" was recorded by Dru Hill on "Unleash the Dragon," to reassure their fans that they are still together.

"Incomplete" is the next angle he wants released. Says Sisqo, "It best describes my current situation and is an appropriate follow up tune that listeners of all ages can relate to and appreciate."

If the "Thong Song" is indicative of the caliber of music on "Unleash the Dragon," Sisqo may be closer to achieving his goal to "shake the industry up in the millennium and be remembered as one of the greatest entertainers of the century."

Music Notes

Brian McKnight taps 702 and Eric Benet for tour

Brian McKnight is gearing up for his anticipated tour to promote his latest, platinum album, "Back At One." McKnight's labelmates 702 will alternate as opening acts with Eric Benet, both of whom are enjoying the success of their albums.

Local dates include Feb. 6 in Philadelphia with Benet, and March 24 at Madison Square Garden in New York.



Eric Benet

ing a stranger outside a store with a rifle when he was 11.

"You do not arrive at justice by punishing a child as a man. In the same way you do not arrive at justice by punishing a man as a child. This type of policy in law does nothing to deter youth from crime, rather it criminalizes

youth," he said in a statement.

Abraham became one of the youngest murder defendants under a new Michigan law that allows children of any age to be prosecuted for serious crimes and felonies.

Faith Evans gains Grammy nom after Lauryn Hill loses her

Faith Evans has been nominated for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance after Lauryn Hill's song "Everything Is Everything" was withdrawn because it was released after the eligibility date for songs to be considered. Hill's song failed to make the October 1, 1998 cut-off date for the awards.

Ruff Ryders/Cash Money Tour postponed

The highly anticipated Ruff Ryders/Cash Money Millionaires tour has been postponed to a later concert date this year.

The tour was set to kick off in Providence, RI on Feb. 9, but will now start on Feb. 24 in Rochester, NY and end on April 10 in Seattle, Washington.



Prince donates

\$37,000 to

Princeville

PRINCEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Prince donated \$37,000 to the flood-ravaged town that bears his old name.

The musician, who now goes by an unpronounceable symbol, contributed the money after reading articles about the devastation wreaked on the town of 2,100 in September by Hurricane Floyd. Sam Knight, Princeville zoning officer, said the money will pay for building materials.

"Although \$37,000 will not go very far when you talk about building supplies, we're very grateful to him for thinking about us," Knight said. "Even though you can't tell it from his music, he's a very religious man who wanted no publicity about his gift to the town."

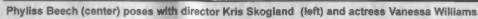
Prince sent a representative to town to assess its needs, town spokeswoman Kim Burwell said.

Hurricane Floyd drenched eastern North Carolina with 20 inches of rain Sept. 16, practically wiping out Princeville. Almost 100 residents have returned since water and sewage services were repaired.

Lifetime drama of black nun told in "Courage to Love"

City Poems
City News
111 Mulberry St.
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Newark, NJ 07102

The handful of critically acclaimed dramas that have focused on black characters failed to draw viewers. These included the family series



She didn't like the treatment, so she put the project on the back burner. Her second chance to revive the project came when she attended a performing arts society with her husband, Dr. Emmell J. Beech, an educational administrator. The event was honoring Jim Wilson, who partnered with Kevin Costner to pro-

For the Bookshelves of African Americans

The handful of critically acclaimed dramas that have focused on black characters failed to draw viewers. These included the family series

"Right or wrong, people tended to perceive those shows about being black in America," Bochco said. "People didn't want to sort of be taken to school. I'm not saying that's what they were doing, but it could have been the perception

The show's timing is a double-edged sword for Bochco: The show gains visibility because of the diversity debate

[illegible]

When asked what she wanted audiences to draw from the story, she said the following: "I want people to draw from the fact that we were able to do things regardless of slavery." The drama will air January 25 on The Lifetime Cable Network. Check local listings for time.

elves
ricans

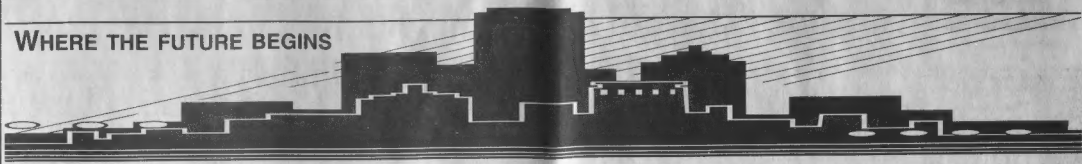
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

By the Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin, Somerset, New Jersey requests proposals from qualified attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey, for the provision of General Legal Services, to be performed over a time period of one year starting with the award of the contract.

The services that are requested will be as follows and will encompass all of the Housing Authority's Programs including, but not limited to Public Housing (100 units), Section 8 (132 units).

Information packages will be available and can be picked up by all interested parties at the Housing Authority Office, #1 Parkside Street, Somerset, New Jersey. Proposals must be submitted in triplicate and must be received no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2000, 1:00 p.m. prevailing time. The Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in any proposal, and to reject any and all proposals, and to accept such proposals and make such award as may be in the best interest of the Authority.

DeWayne K. Cruse, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin, Somerset, New Jersey \$87.49

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT FOR ACCOUNTING SERVICES

By the Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin, Somerset, New Jersey, requests proposals from Certified Public Accountant for the provision of the following Accounting Services, to be performed over a time period of one year starting with the award of the contract.

The services that are requested will be as follows and will encompass all of the Housing Authority's programs (including, but not limited to Public Housing (100 units), Section 8 (132 units), and CIAP (Mortgage)).

Information packages will be available and can be picked up by all interested parties at the Housing Authority Office, #1 Parkside Street, Somerset, New Jersey. Proposals must be submitted in triplicate and must be received no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2000, 1:00 p.m. prevailing time. The Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in any proposal, and to reject any and all proposals, and to accept such proposals and make such award as may be in the best interest of the Authority.

DeWayne K. Cruse, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin, Somerset, New Jersey \$72.04

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February 7th (Tuesday)	February 14th
February 22nd (Tuesday)	February 28th
March 6th	March 13th
March 20th	March 27th
April 3rd	April 10th
April 17th	April 24th
May 1st	May 8th
May 15th	May 22nd
June 12th	June 19th
July 10th	July 17th
August 14th	August 21st
September 11th	September 18th
October 2nd	October 9th
October 16th	October 23rd
November 6th (Wednesday)	November 13th
November 20th	November 27th
December 4th	December 11th
December 18th	December 25th (Tuesday)
	\$ 51.52

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN COUNTY OF SOMERSET

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin ("HA") is seeking proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering firms, located in the State of New Jersey, for design and construction management services at #1 Parkside Street, Somerset, NJ 08873, for:

- 1) Installation of a Central HVAC system for Administration Building
- 2) Upgrade Electrical Service for 50 low-income family housing units
- 3) Upgrade of security lighting on ten (10) Senior Citizen housing buildings

Information packages will be available and can be picked up by all interested parties at the Housing Authority Office, #1 Parkside Street, Somerset, New Jersey. Proposals must be submitted in triplicate and must be received no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2000, 1:00 p.m. prevailing time. The Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in any proposal, and to reject any and all proposals, and to accept such proposals and make such award as may be in the best interest of the Authority.

DeWayne K. Cruse, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin, Somerset, New Jersey \$74.13

Request for Appraisal Proposal Perform a Certified Appraisal of the Authority's Fixed Assets

Proposals Due By
1:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Submit All Proposals To
Housing Authority, Township of Franklin
DeWayne K. Cruse, Executive Director
#1 Parkside Street, Somerset, NJ 08873 \$42.48

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SALEM

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey, 08075, is receiving bids for Rehabilitation of Fire Damage Units #1, 98, 26.

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem, State of New Jersey, The Assisting Authority (hereinafter to be "Owner") will receive sealed bids for the work located at 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey, 08075 in accordance with Contract Documents prepared together with such addenda as may be issued prior to the date of receipt of bids.

Generally, the bids shall include, but not be limited to: removal and replacement of air and water damaged material on walls, floor, appliances, fixtures, etc.; replace damaged structural members; replace with same or better material and labor.

Bids will be received and publicly opened by the Owner on February 2, 2000 at 10:00 a.m., prevailing time at the Office of the Housing Authority of the City of Salem, located at 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey, 08075. Bids shall be withdrawn for a period of 60 days subsequent to the bid opening date without the consent of the Housing Authority.

Sealed proposals for single overall contract for General Construction, covering all trades, will be received for all labor and materials to complete the project. Bidders and the successful bidder and the subcontractors will be required to comply with Affirmative Action Regulations of the City of Salem, New Jersey, stipulated in NJSA 10-51.3-1, and to comply with Chapter 133 of the Public Laws of 1977 and with the requirements of Public Law of 1977, Chapter 127. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in any bid or bids, to reject any and all bids, and to accept such bid or bids and to make such awards as may be in the best interest of the Owner.

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey, which is a bond of the United States Treasury Circular No. 375, or its equivalent, in the amount called for in the Specifications, made out to the Housing Authority of the City of Salem, New Jersey. The Bid Bond must also be accompanied by the affidavits, etc., referred to in the Instructions to Bidders in the Specifications. Regardless of whether the Bid Bond or certified check is submitted for project guarantee, the successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Bid Bond from a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey, which is a bond of the United States Treasury Circular No. 375, or its equivalent, in the amount called for in the Specifications. Payment and performance bond should be the bidder under the contract for the work of the Housing Authority.

The Drawings, Specifications, Form of Proposal, Contract Forms, and any Addenda and Modifications describing the Work will be on file and may be examined at the Office of the Housing Authority of the City of Salem, located at 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey, 08075, or at or after the time of the opening of the 2000 Certificate Construction Documents may also be obtained at the Office of the Housing Authority for a non-refundable deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per set. Drawings to be mailed at a cost of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and site Visit will be held on January 20, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. For any questions, please ask to Kim Bryant, telephone (800) 925-5022.

Prospective bidders are hereby informed that not less than the minimum prevailing wage rates as required by N.J.S.A. 17:27, stating that it will cause the necessary payment and performance bond should be the bidder under the contract for the work of the Housing Authority.

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Ponder This...



By Greg Moore

Old money wins again

The estate of Leon Hess recently decided to sell the New York Jets franchise to Robert Wood Johnson IV, who is an heir to the Johnson & Johnson conglomerate.

Although Johnson's winning \$635,000,000 bid barely edged out Cablevision mogul Charles Dolan, who was Johnson's chief competitor during the high stakes auction, it appears that Johnson's advantage was far greater than the difference between the two parties' respective bids.

Reportedly, from the perspective of the Hess and estate and the powers that be in the NFL, Dolan had several strikes against him. First, in addition to owning Cablevision and MSG Network, Dolan also owns the Knicks, Rangers and Madison Square Garden. Selling Dolan the Jets would have conferred to Dolan a virtual stranglehold on a significant portion of the New York/Metropolitan sports market, and by extension, the television revenues which accompany it.

Of all the professional leagues, the NFL probably divides cross ownership of franchises more than any other. The NFL has a history of aggressively protecting its brand, and owners. And its clear that having an owner such as Dolan, who seems set reinforcing his sports empire, may not have been the type of owner who would have given the Jets top priority.

Secondly, Dolan may be rich, but his money is not quite as old as Johnson's and make no mistake about it, the NFL is still the ultimate old boys network, the supreme co-op board of the sports industry. Johnson hails from a family whose cash and money goes back several generations.

Dolan, on the other hand, is a self-made billionaire whose cash in the eyes of some NFL patriots, may not have enough mold on it. Translation: Dolan represents the kind of new money which if given a choice, the NFL will reject in favor of a more "acceptable" career man more times than not. Therefore, unless the NFL received an astronomical bid from Dolan (see Washington Redskins' owner Dan Snyder) Johnson's eventual ownership of the Jets was a fait accompli.

On a sadder note, I'd like to extend my condolences to the family of former NBA standout and Charlotte Hornet Bobby Phills.

Phills was an incredibly hard working athlete who extracted just about every ounce of ability from his body.

A fellow member of my frat (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity), Phills will be remembered as a player who comported himself with class and dignity.

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Jesse Jackson's group assails Rhodes' firing

By Greg Becham

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jesse Jackson's civil rights group is criticizing the Green Bay Packers' unexpected firing of first-year coach Ray Rhodes, saying it represents a setback in the NFL's efforts toward racial equality.

Rainbow Sports director Charles Farrell, who promotes sports opportunities for minorities for the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, said he intends to outline his organization's concerns in a letter to the Packers next week. Jackson is the coalition's president.

The coalition also wants to meet with NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue to discuss the dismissal of Rhodes, who is black, and the league's inability to foster racial equality in its management and coaching positions.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Tagliabue likely will attend a Jan. 14 coalition conference at which he has been invited to speak. NBA commissioner David Stern, former Toronto Raptors general manager Isiah Thomas and former National League president Len Coleman also are expected to participate.

Farrell hopes to meet with Tagliabue at that time in New York. Farrell said his organization thought Rhodes, who was fired Monday after the Packers finished 8-8 and missed the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons, was held to an unfairly high standard. Rhodes completed just one year of the four-year contract he signed a year ago to replace Mike Tomlin.

"Would a white coach have been dismissed with an 8-8 record?" Farrell said Friday from his New York office. "Why have a coach for four years and then dismiss after one?"

Rhodes' firing after one 500 season was unexpected, but hardly unprecedented.

Pete Carroll, who is white, was also fired on Monday after

leading the New England Patriots to an 8-8 record. Dennis Erickson, who is white, was fired last year by the Seattle Seahawks after posting an 8-8 record in three of his four seasons there.

But the Packers' abrupt dismissal of their entire coaching staff ended what some considered an important first in NFL race relations: Rhodes' staff was the first in league history to feature blacks in all three top positions.

Former offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis and defensive coordinator Emmitt Thomas are black, as are four of the 11 position coaches: receivers coach Charlie Baggett, linebackers coach Johnny Holm, running backs coach Harry Sydney and assistant defensive backs coach Lionel Washington.

Farrell said he was fired by general manager Ron Wolf on Monday.

"It's heavy in terms of losing a head black coach and side tracking his coaching aspirations to two additional coaches," Farrell said.

Wolf declined comment on Friday, and Packers spokeswoman Paula Martin said the team would not immediately respond to the coalition's remarks. Team president Bob Harlan spent the day in meetings and was unavailable.

Phone messages left for Rhodes and Lewis were not immediately returned Friday. Attempts to reach Jackson also were unsuccessful.

When Wolf hired Rhodes a year ago, he insisted race had played no part in the selection. Rhodes had been fired days earlier by the Philadelphia Eagles after posting a 29-34-1 record over four seasons.

Tagliabue has been outspoken about football's need to hire coaches from a more diverse ethnic pool, but the league has made little concrete progress. There have been just four black head coaches in league history.



Ray Rhodes

Although approximately 70 percent of the NFL's players are black, only two black head coaches remain.

Minnesota's Dennis Green, in his eighth season with the Vikings, is the league's longest-tenured coach. Tampa Bay's Tony Dungy, a former assistant to Green who led the Buccaneers to the playoffs this season, is the other.

Art Shell, who had a 56-41 record in six seasons as the Raiders' coach, is the only other black head coach in NFL history. There are no black general managers in the league, which has endured years of criticism on racial issues.

Lewis and Thomas have been considered prime head coaching candidates for years and have been interviewed for various positions. Both interviewed for the Chicago Bears' vacancy last season, but the position went to Dick Jauron, who is white.

(Being a coordinator) is the train to a head coaching position, and that train has been sidetracked. It may even be derailed," Farrell said.

Lewis, who was Mike Holmgren's offensive coordinator in Green Bay for seven seasons before taking the same job under Rhodes, has spoken publicly about his frustrations with coaching opportunities. "I don't necessarily link them to racism," Am I frustrated? Yes, but so are a lot of good assistant coaches around this league who are white and black," Lewis said in a December interview. "I don't know if the race issue has been a factor. I'd like to think it wasn't, but you don't ever really know."

Camp locations include Rochester, N.Y.; Riverside, Calif.; Atlanta, Ga.; and Raleigh, N.C. College basketball scholarships are possible for advanced players. For more information, call (704) 372-8610.

Sports Shorts

SMITH TO PROVIDE DAILY INSIDER INFO ON NBA WEBSITE

ROSEMONT—HoopsTV.com, a 24-hour basketball network featuring original programming from the playground to colleges to the NBA, announced today that former NBA star and current Turner Networks broadcast analyst Kenny Smith has signed an exclusive internet deal to become HoopsTV.com's NBA insider, providing daily audio reports on his own section of the site.

"Based on my playing career in the NBA and my media experience with Turner, I can provide HoopsTV.com with an all-access pass to this league," Smith said. "In return, HoopsTV.com gives me an opportunity to speak to the true ball players out there."

Smith graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1987, and went on to play nine seasons with the Houston Rockets, Detroit Pistons, and other teams.

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Charlotte Hornets's Bobby Phills killed in car accident

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Charlotte Hornets guard Bobby Phills was speeding in his Porsche after practice recently when he lost control, crashed into a car and died instantly.

Stunned and tearful teammates and Hornets officials gathered at the accident scene less than a mile from the Charlotte Coliseum, where minutes earlier Phills and the other players had been practicing for a game.

"This is the ultimate tragedy and our immediate thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Kendall, children, and family."

—Hornets owner George Shinn

Phills, 30, was traveling at a "very high rate of speed" when he collided with a car headed toward the coliseum, police spokesman Keith Bridges said. A minivan rear-ended the other car. Two people in those vehicles were hospitalized.

Witnesses said teammate David Wesley, the Hornets' starting point guard, also may have been driving too fast in his own Porsche, according to police. Wesley's car wasn't involved in the accident, and he was questioned at

the scene. Bridges said it will be at least several days before investigators reconstruct what happened.

Phills lost control on a rally curve where the posted speed was 45 mph, said Capt. L.E. Blydenburgh, the crash investigator. "He skid marks indicate he was not going in a straight line," he said.

Phills' car, with the vanity plates "SLAMN," left skid marks several hundred feet long and came to rest in one of the opposite lanes, Bridges said. Firefighters had to cut his body from the wreckage.

Listed in Charlotte at the condition at Presbyterian Hospital were Robert Woodard Jr., 31, of Cornelius; the driver of the other car, and Yan Agbegehon, 33, of Charlotte, who was driving a minivan tax, Bridges said.

This is the ultimate tragedy and our immediate thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Kendall, children, and family," Hornets owner George Shinn said in a statement.



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Some positions require candidates to be bilingual in Spanish/English or Korean/English. Applications are available at most Police Departments, Libraries, N.J. Employment Services Offices, County & Municipal Offices, ... and at www.state.nj.us/personnel. February 23, 2000 is the last day of filing an application.

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